

CLAIMS

1. A method for detecting a contamination with a microorganism in a closed container, wherein an extracellular enzyme, or its activity, of said microorganism is detected.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the activity of said
5 extracellular enzyme is detected by means of providing a substrate for said enzyme to the contents of the container and detecting the conversion of said substrate by said enzyme.
3. A method according to claim 2, wherein said detecting of the conversion comprises detecting the quantity of substrate and/or detecting a
10 reaction product.
4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said enzyme, said substrate and/or said reaction product is detected by means of an indicator.
5. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said
15 indicator is located in a coating on the inner side of said container.
6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said microorganism is a plant cell, protozoon, fungus, yeast, archaeum or bacterium.
7. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein
20 amylase, protease, lipase, pectinase, xylanase, cellulase, chitinase, collagenase and/or glucanase are detected.
8. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said detecting comprises an optical measurement, preferably a non-invasive optical measurement.
- 25 9. A method according to claim 8, wherein the optical measurement comprises a fluorescent or (chemi)luminescent measurement.
10. A method according to claim 8, wherein an optical sensor is used.

11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said optical sensor comprises a chemo-optical substance.
12. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, wherein said substrate comprises starch, protein, glyoxylate, substances with an
5 aldehyde function, a carboxyl ester or an acetic acid ester, preferably protein.
13. A container for sterile tissue culture, which comprises an indicator for detecting an extracellular enzyme of a microorganism.